

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Sir David NICOLSON

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on accidents to holidaymakers and other visitors
whilst abroad

- concerned about the distress and suffering experienced by holidaymakers and other visitors who are subject to accident or illness whilst in foreign countries,
 - believing that the number of such accidents is increased by inadequate or non-existent safety standards for hotels and for coaches and other hire vehicles, and by the absence of enforcement of these where they do exist,
 - believing that the suffering from accidents is increased by:
 - the inability of many communities to deal with accidents amongst the large tourist population for which they cater,
 - the low standards of medical care in certain countries,
 - the lack of adequate training of tour operator personnel to handle emergencies,
 - the lack of clear guidelines by insurance companies providing travel cover as to the procedures to be followed in emergencies,
 - the lack of minimum standards of such insurance cover, and
 - the difficulty and cost of successfully bringing litigation in foreign countries,
 - noting the Commission's answer to Written Question 1283/81,
 - having regard to the importance of the tourist industry to the economy of the Community and the need to ensure the highest standards of safety and protection for tourists.
1. Urges the Commission to pursue with vigour its studies on the problems of safety in hotels;
 2. Requests the Commission to undertake similar studies into standards of safety for coaches and for hire vehicles and into standards of insurance in connection with these;
 3. Disagrees with the Commission that the standards of medical care are a matter domestic to each country where the country or area concerned encourages and benefits from a recognized, organized and regular tourist trade, and requests the Commission to consider ways of encouraging Member States to meet certain minimum standards of medical care for tourists;
 4. Requests the Commission to study ways of ensuring that tour operators employ only adequately trained couriers;
 5. Requests the Commission to study the possibility of requiring that the costs of repatriation should be covered by all travel insurance policies providing medical cover;
 6. Requests the Commission to study ways of facilitating the pursuit of civil legislation by tourists injured abroad and by others suffering damage whilst in Member States other than their own;

7. Requests the Commission to study ways of enforcing greater disclosure
 - by insurance companies of the terms and conditions of policies to any party with prima facie evidence of accident, loss or injury, and of the procedures to be taken in case of accident or other emergency,
 - by tour operators in brochures, promotional literature and travel confirmation advices of the availability and standard of medical assistance available at the tour location,
 - by vehicle hire and coach operators of the terms and conditions of their insurance cover and their liability thereunder;
8. Urges the Commission to propose appropriate legislation at the conclusion of these studies;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities, and to Heads of Government of the Member States.